

noted: "Most reforms, most problems are complicated. But to me there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality." Let us allow the simple principle of equality to guide us, as we strive to make history in further advancing the rights of women.

#### SMALL BUSINESS ENERGY EMERGENCY RELIEF ACT

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate approved S. 295, the Small Business Energy Emergency Relief Act of 2001. This bill will provide needed assistance to small businesses and farmers that have suffered direct and substantial economic injury caused by significant increases in the prices of heating oil, propane, kerosene, or natural gas.

Specifically, I would like to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Small Business Committee, Senator KIT BOND and Senator JOHN KERRY, for their willingness to include an amendment sponsored by Senator HARKIN and me. This amendment will help farmers offset the surging costs of fuel. Farmers in my state and throughout the country have been negatively impacted as a result of high energy prices on farm income, due not only to the costs for fuel farmers need to run their equipment but also the increases in costs for fertilizer, which is made from natural gas.

Earlier this year, the spot price for natural gas had increased 400 percent from the year before. The Department of Energy is predicting that natural gas rates this winter will be at least double last year's levels. The most recognizable impact of this price spike has been on heating costs. However, many in the agriculture community are concerned with the impact of these spiraling costs on agricultural producers, since natural gas is the major component of nitrogen.

I am pleased that the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Small Business Committee agreed to include the Farm Energy Relief Act to allow the Secretary of Agriculture to declare a disaster area in counties where a sharp and significant increase in the price of fuel and fertilizer has caused farmers economic injury and created the need for financial assistance. That determination would allow farmers to be eligible for USDA's emergency disaster loans for losses arising from energy price spikes. I believe this amendment will provide much-needed relief to many of our producers who are also facing depressed prices for their commodities.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, March 26, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,733,895,076,837.79. Five trillion,

seven hundred thirty-three billion, eight hundred ninety-five million, seventy-six thousand, eight hundred thirty-seven dollars and seventy-nine cents.

Five years ago, March 26, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,066,588,000,000. Five trillion, sixty-six billion, five hundred eighty-eight million.

Ten years ago, March 26, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,452,738,000,000. Three trillion, four hundred fifty-two billion, seven hundred thirty-eight million.

Fifteen years ago, March 26, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$1,982,440,000,000. One trillion, nine hundred eighty-two billion, four hundred forty million.

Twenty-five years ago, March 26, 1976, the Federal debt stood at \$600,274,000,000. Six hundred billion, two hundred seventy-four million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion, \$5,133,621,076,837.79. Five trillion, one hundred thirty-three billion, six hundred twenty-one million, seventy-six thousand, eight hundred thirty-seven dollars and seventy-nine cents, during the past 25 years.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### LIEUTENANT COLONEL MICHAEL DAVID

• Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, it is my great privilege to pay tribute to a Rhode Islander, Lieutenant Colonel Michael David, who will soon complete 23 years of distinguished service to our Nation.

As friends and colleagues gather to honor Lieutenant Colonel David's retirement from the U.S. Air Force, I would also like to extend to him my heartiest congratulations. Indeed, the State of Rhode Island is very proud and fortunate to have had a native of Warwick, RI represent us so well. I join with all Rhode Islanders in expressing thanks to Lieutenant Colonel David for the wonderful job he has done.

A graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Lieutenant Colonel David has shared his expertise as he trained service men and women to fly the T-38 and C-141 aircraft at Air Force bases across our land; he has served as a T-38 Instructor Pilot, a C-141 Instructor and Evaluator Pilot. In addition, he has flown and led many world-wide airlift and formation airdrop missions. At present, he is charged with aiding the Pentagon's top brass in leading the Armed Forces into the 21st century, equipping our military to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Along the way, Lieutenant Colonel David has been awarded numerous decorations including: Meritorious Service Medal, 2nd OLC, Aerial Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Combat Readiness Medal,

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Small Arms Expert Pistol Ribbon, Air Force Legacy Service Award, Air Force Training Ribbon, Joint Meritorious Unit Award and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. Lieutenant Colonel David currently has the Defense Superior Service Medal pending approval by the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

That is an impressive list! Our hats are off to Lieutenant Colonel David for these tremendous accomplishments.

Yet, we all know it is the military family that also deserves the recognition and congratulations for the years of travel, leaving family and friends, and for their tireless energy and support of the United States Armed Forces. For their outstanding dedication, I wish to commend and congratulate Lieutenant Colonel David's wife, the former Bernadette Louise Brennan, of Providence, and his two daughters, Ashley Nicole David and Stephanie Michelle David.

In closing, I am pleased to offer my very best wishes to Lieutenant Colonel David for happiness and fulfillment in his new endeavors. His contributions certainly will be remembered for generations to come.●

##### IN HONOR OF COMMUNITY FOOD RESOURCE CENTER

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is my honor and pleasure to inform my fellow Senators that this year marks the 21st anniversary of Community Food Resource Center, a New York City organization that has been a leader in the fight for improved nutrition and economic well-being for all Americans.

CFRC's first project in 1980 was a school breakfast campaign. Since then, CFRC has been instrumental in shaping and promoting child nutrition programs. Because of CFRC's efforts, for example, New York City became the first major city to implement universal school meals on a large scale.

I became familiar with CFRC because of my work on the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee. I have come to admire and respect the organization and its dedicated staff, and I feel honored to have had the chance to work with them. Whatever the issue, I can always count on CFRC to focus on the needs of those whose voices are rarely heard in the Capitol.

I would like to highlight just a few of CFRC's many innovative programs. Its Community Kitchen of West Harlem provides meals to more than 600 people nightly. Its CookShop program encourages schoolchildren to eat more fruits and vegetables. Its senior dinner programs use school cafeterias after hours to provide nutritious meals, social activities and an intergenerational program.